



Air Education and Training Command



Develop America's Airmen Today ... for Tomorrow

AETC

Develop America's Airmen Today ... for Tomorrow



Pat Barber

***Small Business Specialist
AETC Contracting Squadron***

U.S. AIR FORCE

Integrity - Service - Excellence



Air Education and Training Command Contracting Squadron – Randolph AFB

Develop America's Airmen Today ... for Tomorrow



The Differences Between Source Sought and Request for Information (RFI)

QUESTION:

Is a Source Sought announcement equal or the same as a Request for Information for Market Research?

- There is a minor difference- the "sources sought" announcement is used to determine if a set-aside of some type is appropriate.
- The RFI is looking more at capabilities and what is available from a technical perspective in the market place- but both get you just about the same information.



Air Education and Training Command Contracting Squadron – Randolph AFB



Develop America's Airmen Today ... for Tomorrow



SOURCES SOUGHT

- In **FAR Part 10**, you will find sources sought notices are part of market research to assist the government in determining how best to accomplish the procurement action.
- A sources sought announcement is not required for every procurement - if the contracting officer already knows through other means that there is or is not sufficient competition, and if there are or are not enough small businesses available to compete for the requirement, then no sources sought announcement is required at all.



Air Education and Training Command Contracting Squadron – Randolph AFB



Develop America's Airmen Today ... for Tomorrow



- If the contracting officer does not have enough information to make those decisions, a sources sought announcement is issued. Once the contracting officer completes analysis of the market research, those decisions are announced in a pre-solicitation notice.

Request for Information

- 15.201(e) RFIs may be used when the Government does not presently intend to award a contract, but wants to obtain price, delivery, other market information, or capabilities for planning purposes. Responses to these notices are not offers and cannot be accepted by the Government to form a binding contract. There is no required format for RFIs.



Combined RFI and Source Sought

- There may be times when a Contracting Officer will combine the Source Sought and the RFI.
- The CO may even just post a source sought and on a later date post an RFI if more information is needed.



Air Education and Training Command Contracting Squadron – Randolph AFB



Develop America's Airmen Today ... for Tomorrow



- *Example of an Source Sought Notice*
- TMT has posted a Source Sought Notice (SSN) for the Development of Adaptable Platform Technologies for Medical Countermeasures Against Infectious Diseases. This is NOT a solicitation for proposals, proposal abstracts, or quotations. **This notice is published for market research purposes only.** This notice is open to qualified business sources of all sizes. Information is sought regarding: **(1) the availability and capability of all qualified business sources; (2) whether qualified business sources are small businesses, service-disabled, veteran-owned small businesses; (a) small businesses; veteran-owned small businesses; woman-owned small businesses; or small disadvantaged businesses;** and (3) size classification relative to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for the proposed acquisition
- *Example of an RFI will be given to you.*



Air Education and Training Command Contracting Squadron – Randolph AFB



Develop America's Airmen Today ... for Tomorrow



*Pat Barber
AETC Contracting Squadron
2021 First Street
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4425
(210) 652-7084 voice
(210) 652-7665 fax
patricia.barber@randolph.af.mil*